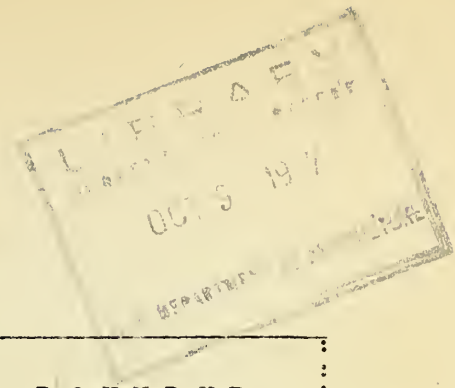


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U. S. Department of Agriculture  
May 31, 1946 --- VOLUME XI



F A M I N E   C A M P A I G N   R O U N D U P

(Prepared for the use of U.S.D.A. State Emergency Food Managers in carrying out a coordinated famine emergency program in their States.)

"THE LAST BIG PUSH"

Calling full production the continuing aim of American farmers, Secretary Anderson recently stated that "now we are in the last big push" to ship the last 74 million bushels of 1945 crop wheat promised famine-stricken areas before June 30.

Already, America has shipped 326 million bushels of the 400 million promised for this marketing year, Secretary Anderson said. He added that our exports of grain for the year will be at least 40 percent of the total food grain exports of the world, representing about one-third of our total crop.

As a result of this greatest single movement of a commodity in world history, this country will be temporarily short of bread and flour, and next year there will be less pork, leaner beef and fewer poultry and eggs.

However, the Secretary pointed out that "this will not result in hardship.... at home there are plenty of other foods available to make up any deficit."

Because of feed shortages and price squeezes, dairymen face a tough problem, said Mr. Anderson. "But dairy farmers and their industry are taking extraordinary measures.... to help meet the famine emergency." In the first three months of this year, 300 million pounds of evaporated and condensed milk and more than 100 million pounds of powdered milk were sent abroad. Estimated export demands in the coming year include 100 million pounds of cheese, 600 million pounds of evaporated and condensed milk, and 275 million pounds of powdered milk.

\* \* \* \*

## FAMINE RELIEF EXPORTS

Export shipments of wheat during the first 20 days of May brought the total of wheat and flour since January 1 to 3,493,000 tons (130,405,000 bushels). In addition, 8,000 tons of corn were exported.

The increase in exports during the second ten days of May was beginning to reflect the 77,000,000 bushels of wheat and corn the Department had purchased through May 16 under the bonus programs.

Sailings since May 20, ships now being loaded, and grain enroute to ports which, before the rail strike, was scheduled to be loaded on or before May 31, total 294,000 long tons of wheat and 146,000 long tons of corn.

Break in the flow of wheat from inland points to ports, resulting from the strike, has delayed the loading of many ships. Pre-strike prospective exports during the last 11 days of May, plus the actual exports for the first 20 days of the month, total about 840,000 long tons for the month as a whole.

In addition to grain, a total of 131 thousand tons of fats and oils was made available by the Commodity Credit Corporation between January 1 and May 17 this year for delivery to UNRRA and to European countries.

Total supplies made available for delivery up to May 17-- approximately three-fourths of the six months period (January-June) are on schedule, at 75 percent of the total allocation for the period.

Of the 131 thousand tons of fats and oils made available by May 17, a total of 96 thousand had been "lifted" by claimants. This is the total for which signed on-board-ship bills of lading had been received. An additional 19 thousand tons was either already at ship-side or moving to ports. The remaining 16 thousand tons was being held in stock by CCC pending delivery instructions from claimants.

Officials of the Department pointed out that the good record of procurement to meet the urgent food needs abroad had been made possible by conservation.

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## BONUS GRAIN TOTALS 114,700,000 BUSHELS

Total purchases of 114,776,138 bushels of grain under the wheat and corn bonus purchase plans were reported today by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The wheat bonus plan, which closed on May 25, accounted for 81,280,016 bushels, and the corn bonus plan, terminated on May 11, brought in 33,496,122 bushels. If records have not yet been returned to county offices for some wheat shipped by producers directly to terminals -- the total for wheat may increase somewhat.

Commodity Credit Corporation is being reimbursed for the full price of the grain, including the bonus, by claimants receiving the grain.

Commenting on the results of the bonus plan, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said, "The whole country -- in fact, the whole world -- can well be proud of the great job our farmers have done this month in moving grain to market. While we have doubts that we can now meet export goals, the wheat and corn farmers have delivered under the emergency program, in addition to the grain exported earlier, will give us the supplies to meet export commitments of 400 million bushels for the marketing year which ends July 1.

"The big task ahead now is to move this grain -- from local elevators to terminals and to ports, within the time limits. The rail strike cost us shipping days we could ill afford to lose. We must now utilize all facilities to capacity every day in rushing these life-giving food supplies to those who are in desperate need across the water."

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## BAKERS MUST REDUCE WEIGHT OF BREAD AND ROLLS

Effective June 1, bakers may not make or sell any variety of bread or rolls weighing more than 90 percent of the weight of such bread and rolls produced on March 15, 1946, or on the last prior date when the bread and rolls were made. This is the latest in a series of measures taken by the Department of Agriculture to help channel more wheat to famine areas.

Any baker who, because of equipment difficulties, cannot reasonably comply with this amendment is exempted, provided that on or before June 10, 1946, he informs the Production and Marketing Administrator, U. S. Department of Agriculture in writing that he cannot comply, stating his reasons in detail.

If the Administrator then decides that the baker can reasonably comply, the exemption may be revoked and the baker directed to reduce the weight of bread and rolls by 10 percent as specified in the amendment.



The amendment also requires every baker to use wrappers, packages, or labels indicating plainly the actual weight of the products affected by this order. A baker who does not ordinarily wrap, package, or label his products, and is not required by law to do so, must give notice to the persons to whom delivery is made of the reduced weight of such products. If a baker cannot obtain wrappers, packages, or labels, or have those on hand corrected to show the reduced weight, he must display a sign in his store explaining the reduction in weight of his products.

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### HOOVER VISITS SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

At the request of the President, Mr. Herbert Hoover, Honorary Chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee, left Saturday, May 25, on a trip to the other American Republics. Included in the party are: Mr. Hugh Gibson, formerly American Ambassador to Brazil, Belgium and Poland; Dr. Julius Klein, formerly Assistant Secretary of Commerce; Dr. D. A. Fitzgerald, U. S. Department of Agriculture food expert; Mr. Maurice Pate, an Executive of the International Red Cross; and Mr. Frank Mason, who will act as press assistant for the party.

Mr. Hoover arrived in Mexico City on Sunday, May 26, and after several days proceeded to Panama, arriving on the 29th. The itinerary from that point depends on weather conditions, the progress of Mr. Hoover's discussions, and other factors, but tentative plans are for him to proceed down the west coast and return along the east coast of South America. It is expected that the party will return to Washington about June 22.

In each of the countries visited, Mr. Hoover will discuss ways in which the other American Republics may participate in alleviating the critical famine conditions prevalent in large areas of the world. This will include a review of the import requirements of each country visited. In those cases where surplus production is available, Mr. Hoover will offer each nation an opportunity to make its full contribution to the relief of world distress. The program that Mr. Hoover will discuss is a broad one, and he is confident that each of the other American Republics will want to share in all ways that are available to them.

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## WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

To keep world famine at bay in the future, three main lines of action were taken at the conference called by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Washington, May 20-27:

- (1) An International Emergency Food Council takes the place of the Combined Food Board.
- (2) An International Research and Information Service was established which will operate within FAO.
- (3) Specific recommendations were given the nations of the world on how to stretch 1946-47 food supplies and expand 1947-48 harvests.

The new International Emergency Food Council, which takes over the problems of the old Combined Food Board, already includes 20 countries. It may be expanded to take in 50 or more. It is expected that this Council will consider not only food shortages, but surplus problems.

The Research and Information Service will provide world-wide reports four times a year on food, agriculture, and fisheries. Its first report is due September 15. Where individual governments don't submit information, the Research service will make its own estimates of the situation.

Concerning the third main line of action at the Washington meeting, instructions on food supplies and harvests are expected to provide a blueprint for food regulations in most countries within a matter of days.

Recommendations include an increase of flour extraction rates to 85 percent; use of not less than 5 percent of supplements in wheat flour; continuing low levels in industrial uses of grain; and diversion of fats and oils from soap, paint, and the like, to food.

Besides the three major moves, the conference approved recommendations that the FAO prepare a report on a permanent World Food Action Agency, and that it cooperate with UNRRA in that agency's work of feeding and rehabilitating peoples in shortage areas.

The next meeting of the United Nations' FAO will open in Copenhagen, Denmark, on September 2.

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: NEWS DEVELOPMENTS :  
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To relieve the MONOTONY OF THEIR DIET, Britons have been promised oranges from Brazil and South Africa, and apples from Australia. John Strachey, new Minister of Food for Britain, has announced that he hopes to provide 2 pounds (about 8 oranges) for each consumer during the period between June and November.

\* \* \* \*

FRANCE'S GRAIN PROSPECTS are reported good, with increased seedlings of bread-grains, but slightly smaller feedgrain acreage than last year's. Unofficial forecasts of the crop place wheat production at 260 to 290 million bushels, compared with an estimated 185 million bushels for 1945.

\* \* \* \*

ARGENTINE BEEF EXPORTS in 1946 are now expected only to equal the 1945 level. Earlier prospects for a 20-percent increase over last year's beef exports have been almost eliminated by inadequate rains in the main grazing zones and a 25-day packinghouse strike.

Cattle numbers in Argentina appear likely to drop somewhat from the relatively high level of 34 million head in mid-1945. Marketings of light-weight cattle will tend to lower the beef output. Because of a sharp rise in grain prices, some "estancieros" may decide to permit more of their land to be used for grain production rather than for fattening cattle.

\* \* \* \*

An early March HOG CENSUS in the U. S. Zone in Germany indicates an increase in sow numbers and in bred sows. This points to a much larger 1946 pig production than last year and increased hog numbers at the end of 1946 under present rates of slaughter.

Total hogs in the U. S. Zone in March numbered 1,795,000 head, a seasonal reduction from 2,204,000 last December. Total chickens on the same date are reported at 10,990,000 compared with 11,174,000 last December.

\* \* \* \*

Former Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia said that the railroad STRIKE DELAYED UNRRA WHEAT SHIPMENTS 2 days. He added that, on Monday, May 27, 12 ships were waiting to be loaded with 100,000 tons of wheat for distribution among famine-stricken Nations of Europe.

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Except for certain classes of heavy workers, the DAILY BASIC BREAD RATION in Belgium has been reduced from 400 to 350 grams. This is the third cut in bread rations since March, and is expected to save 10,000 tons of wheat per month. The bread ration constitutes about 54 percent of the basic ration of 1,857 calories.

Bread ration stamps are also necessary to get bread in restaurants on 6 days a week -- the seventh day is breadless.

\* \* \* \*

Hans Frenzel, Austrian Minister for Food, has reported that the WORST POINT of the FOOD CRISIS in that country has probably been overcome, although the country will still be hungry. It seems almost certain now that the June minimum ration can be about 1,200 calories a day, and that the July will be more than 1,000.

From Austrian quarters it was also learned that the worst moment of the crisis was met through the foresight of Gen. Mark W. Clark, U. S. Commander in Austria. Here and there he had collected a nest egg of supplies to meet just such a situation as arose when Austria was faced with the need to reduce the June basic ration to 700 calories. The same quarters said that the U. S.-Russian gift of food, previously announced, was nearly three-fourths American.

The Austrian Government and UNRRA intend taking extra steps to let the people know that the supplies they receive from abroad are given free to their Government and that the money they pay for them at normal prices goes to their own Government, to be used for rehabilitation within the country.

\* \* \* \*

Effective June 1, GIFT PARCELS will be accepted for delivery to the U. S. Zone of Germany, except the sector of Berlin, the Post Office Department has announced. Parcels may not exceed 11 pounds or 72 inches in length and girth combined. Only one each week may be sent by one person to the same addressee. The rate is 14 cents a pound.

Contents are limited to essential relief items, such as non-perishable foods, clothing, soap, and medicines. No writing or printed matter may be included. Parcels and customs declarations must be marked "gift parcel" and the value and contents stated on the customs declarations.

\* \* \* \*

Algeria now reports too much RAIN -- more than that section of NORTH AFRICA normally gets to the end of August. Damage is being done to grain in the midst of the harvesting season, and vineyards -- source of the country's principal export wine -- are seriously threatened with mildew. Three successive years of drought in North Africa have contributed to the reduced bread consumption in the U. S., not to mention the acute distress caused the Algerian population.

Nevertheless, Algeria hopes to harvest enough wheat for her own minimum needs this season and to stop drawing upon American stocks, which sustained the country throughout the past year.

\* \* \* \*

Argentina has shipped 148,895 tons of WHEAT AND CORN to the needy countries of Europe, Africa, and South America, and intended shipping 28,600 tons more to Europe during the last week in May.

Of the grain already shipped, 134,129 tons went to Spain, Italy, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Great Britain, South Africa, Brazil, Paraguay, and Peru, and 14,665 tons to UNRRA.

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: ACTION :  
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Attached will be found information on Early Potatoes. Every attempt is being made to push them domestically as an alternative for the more readily exportable cereals. Next abundant food coming up looks like peaches, with a crop almost as big as the 1945 record-breaking pick.

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#### Strike Losses

Losses of fruits and vegetables due to the recent railroad strike appear to be negligible. Unloadings continued in terminals during the strike, and cars which had been side-tracked at way-points were rushed to their destinations at the conclusion of the strike and quickly taken care of.

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### Negro Cooperation

The JUNE CAPITOL LETTER, issued by the Washington Bureau of the National Fraternal Council of Negro Churches, U.S.A., contains a big item on the world food situation, a section on quotes from the Nation's leaders in the food crisis, and more than half a page devoted to Victory Gardens. It also tells of Negro participation in FAO meetings, UNRRA meetings with LaGuardia, and discussion of the Argentine situation.

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### Food Waste

Even in wartime, we wasted 125 million pounds of food every day. Surveys by USDA agricultural economists and by garbage analysts showed that we wasted from 20 to 30 percent of all the food we produced.

Of this gigantic waste one-fourth to one-third takes place in the home. This means that the average American family throws out 400 pounds of good edible food every year.

Of even more importance is the waste that occurs on farms, in warehouses, and in stores, because perishable foods do not find a market soon enough.

The supply and demand for food are never exactly balanced. There are always seasonal and local abundances which must be used up before they spoil. A good rule during this emergency -- in fact, all the time -- is: Use the more plentiful foods to prevent waste.

Saving food is hard for Americans -- we have always had so much of it. Of course, none of us deliberately waste food. But the garbage cans continue to fill up. Now, with so much of the world hungry, food waste must be cut.

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### The Women

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. will use USDA famine materials at their various state conventions and at their Biennial Convention to be held in Cleveland, July 7 - 12.

Presidents of the Junior Leagues have been asked in the national organization's monthly letter to give complete cooperation to the Famine Emergency Campaign. Recommendations on how householders could help were also listed.

Prior to the Association of Junior Leagues conference in Quebec, the board of directors requested the management of the Chateau Frontenac Hotel to provide the delegates with menus which conform with the famine emergency rules for hotels, restaurants, and eating places in the United States. Public eating places in Canada must also abide by the food rationing system for that country.

Delegates from 150 Junior Leagues attended the conference. The famine movies were shown at a luncheon meeting and their president spoke on the famine situation and urged the complete cooperation of the Leagues in the United States, including Hawaii, in the Famine Emergency Program. Material was at the place of every delegate and they were much impressed by the need of every person's cooperation to alleviate the desperate situation.

In the May issue of the "Clubwoman," monthly publication of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a one-page article, "Demonstrating World Fellowship," urged every clubwoman to help in the Famine Emergency Program "until it hurts." More practical, members were also asked to have one breadless day a week in their homes. "If every one of the 2,500,000 women in the Federation would do this, on the basis of 3 persons to the family, there would be a saving in one week of at least 22,500,000 slices of bread," the article stated. Members were also urged to eliminate waste of bread; to cut down on the amount used by substituting cornbread, potatoes, and root vegetables when plentiful; to cut down on the use of macaroni, spaghetti, breakfast cereals, pies, cookies, cakes, and rice; and to continue to save fat.

Another article in the magazine lists five reasons for Victory Gardens; (1) To increase total food supply, (2) to produce and conserve extra food for relief and community needs, (3) to reduce the overload on transportation facilities, (4) to increase family security through protection against potential shortages, and (5) to assist community development and family health. The following objectives or appeals were suggested: Add your bit to the world food supply, plan your garden carefully, your Victory



Garden will make it easier to save "a slice of bread a day", stay with your garden throughout the season, figure how much your garden can save you in money, your own garden is the best insurance against crop failures here and abroad or unexpectedly large foreign relief needs.

A simple but attractive kitchen pin-up, "Food Hints for Volunteers," has been printed and distributed by Mrs. John Richardson, Jr. of Milton, Mass. It also has received good play in the Massachusetts press.

County Council presidents of the Alabama Council of Home Demonstration Clubs have been called on to stimulate individual participation "by having each home demonstration club sponsor a drive to get everyone sign 'My Personal Pledge to Help Save Food.'" (See Round-Up, April 26.)

"I had the last piece of bread day before yesterday." This is the translation from a letter from a little Greek girl, appearing on a flyer mimeographed and distributed by the California State Food and Nutrition Committee.

The Campfire Girls of Rhode Island recently held a food pledge ceremony that went over so well that "The Camp Fire Girl," National headquarters monthly bulletin, suggests in June issue that Campfire food pledge ceremonies and other food emergency activities be scheduled by local groups during the entire summer.

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#### Local Initiative

Ohio. Mayor Stewart of Cincinnati has put himself into the hands of a dietitian and is living on 1900 calories daily, thus dramatizing famine in a very direct fashion.

West Virginia reports that cornbread is popular throughout the State as an alternative for wheat breads.

Maine. Farmers in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties are voluntarily growing dry beans for famine areas, figuring that 10 pounds of seed should grow 100 pounds of beans to feed 1,000 people for a day. Their goal is 450 hundredweight. Shipping and distribution are to be handled through the United Church Service Center in Boston, and the Quaker Society in foreign countries.

Kentucky. One county is stimulating its garden drive with prizes for the best ones, both on the farm and in town.



Connecticut. In Litchfield county, 200 idle acres on estates and farms are being planted in corn under a cooperative plan. Some State bakers are pushing potato-flour bread with considerable success.

Idaho. The Lewiston Tribune and Empire Airlines cooperated recently to "buzz" all schools in the area; dropping circulars on food conservation.

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#### Public Eating Places

More than 50,000 menu tip-ons and 10,000 circulars have been distributed to restaurants and other eating places by the Carstairs Brothers Distilling Company. Both items are attractively printed in blue and white.

Indiana's Wheeler's Restaurants, in preparation for Speedway races, did a rather elaborate promotion job with menus, which not only carried a tip-on message but also devoted the inside front cover to the "help fight famine" appeal.

Secretary-General of the Lions International reports having contacted all 4,600 Lions Clubs in this country and 800 in other countries, asking them to eliminate breadstuffs from their luncheon and dinner meetings for the duration of the emergency. The response is reported to be "immediate and enthusiastic" from all sections of the country.

The Chicago district office of PMA has provided the Office of Emergency Food Program with letters indicating active cooperation on dining cars of the Illinois Central, Rock Island, Milwaukee, and Alton railroads; also the Chicago and Northwestern and the Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville railways. In addition to adopting conservation rules, several dining car superintendents have been carrying on instruction work with chefs, waiters, and other employees. Similar assurances of cooperation by dining cars have been received by the New York City office from the Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Ohio, and the New York, Hartford, and New Haven railways.

The New Jersey PMA office reports that 5,000 table tents and menu cards have been mailed to restaurants, hotels, and dining car superintendents of the Erie Railroad. Alabama has sent 2,000 conservation circulars to restaurants; Wisconsin, 4,000 posters to restaurants and hotels, along with special letters on abundant foods. Tennessee reports 5,000 table tents distributed by milk dealers to Nashville restaurants and hotels; also 8,000 menu stickers distributed by bakery-route men to restaurants.

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### Large-City Committee Activities

From reports received the past week, 166 of the larger cities have now organized for carrying out a community-wide food conservation program. Roughly, the population of these cities (1940 census) totals approximately 40 million people. Communications also reveal that about 35 additional communities in the large-city group have community-wide organizations in the planning stage.

One of the first to get organized -- with a chairman, an executive committee of 16, a campaign director, and "a Council of 70 service, fraternal, labor, food industry, and other communal organizations, joined to combat famine overseas" -- was Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Activities gleaned from the Committee's latest report follow:

- \*\* 15- 30-, and 60-second spot announcements, sent to local advertisers who have radio programs on 3 radio stations; additional material sent directly to the stations.
- \*\*-- Checkup revealed "restaurant program has developed into something more than just lip service."
- \*\* Urgent appeal to all advertisers in Milwaukee County to help tell the food story through use of symbol and slogan, mats, ad drop-ins, etc. Some retail outlets creating own ads; others using those advocated by Advertising Council.
- \*\* Created own billboard and car card design. Transport Company has contributed 1,000 spaces for car cards.
- \*\* Created window sticker "which will be distributed to every home in Milwaukee"; carries symbol on one side, and on the other indicates how family can cooperate.
- \*\* School and labor programs are in "full swing." Every CIO Council has arranged for a speaker and showing of the film, "Freedom and Famine."
- \*\* Board of Directors of the Schlitz Milwaukee Club voted to dispense with its 1946 Club picnic, thereby saving food and money -- \$300, which will be distributed to accredited organizations engaged in famine relief.
- \*\* Special meeting held of representatives of all women's organizations, some of which have set up emergency committees and telephone squads. Specific instructions on food saving were sent to the leadership of these organizations. A similar communication was sent to PTA's.
- \*\* Organized speakers bureau of 40 outstanding and capable speakers.

The honor roll of large cities where famine emergency committees are hard at work continues to grow. Reports received by Walter F. Straub, Director, Office of Emergency Food Program, USDA, show these highlights:

BALTIMORE - Chairman Gerald S. Wise says the committee is working hard on public education through news stories, radio, literature, etc.; Junior Red Cross active; the Mayor has proclaimed wheatless meals. Previously Chairman Wise reported extensive cooperation from local food industries.

BUFFALO - Chairman Mariano A. Lucca reports that the functions of the Famine Emergency Committee and the Emergency Food Collection for Buffalo have been combined; commends USDA representative there for "Splendid cooperation and assistance"; a letter explaining the campaign and requesting cooperation has gone to 700 employers of 40 or more employees in the city and Western New York.

BIRMINGHAM - Mrs. Brooks C. Whitton is chairman of the committee organized May 16; speakers bureau is at work; Mayor Cooper Green has issued proclamation; restaurants and hotels have voted 50 percent bread reduction.

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayor Robert H. Tyndall has formed a committee representing a cross-section of all the religious, civic, business, educational, labor, and other local organizations, with Roy Badollet as chairman; program has four main points: (1) cash contributions, (2) practicing food conservation in homes and commercial eating places, (3) planting "famine" gardens, and (4) canning as much home-grown food as possible, with the main objective of making "the community food-saving conscious."

KALAMAZOO - Mayor Henry Ford, Jr., has named John R. Jenkins as chairman of the local FEC and proclaimed "Breadless" Wednesdays for the duration of the emergency; bakers, churches, organizations, stores, and schools have supported the program.

WASHINGTON, D. C. - The local Food Conservation Committee, one of the first to be formed in the Nation, has obtained very effective follow-through cooperation from the public schools system. For example, the Gorton Junior High School drafted a comprehensive food conservation program involving separate performance by each of the school departments. Copy of this distinctive school program will be supplied to other committees on request. Similar program might be followed in summer school or considered for regular term beginning in September.



PRINCETON, N. J. - Mayor Minot C. Morgan, Jr. reports stringent program of self-rationing in his borough through "breadless" Thursdays and "fryless" Wednesdays, plus four breadless meals per week in all hotels, restaurants, and institutions; he estimates the program will effect a 20-percent saving in these commodities.

WATERBURY, CONN. - Mrs. Flora A. Allen, chairman, reports intensive effort by the public speaking bureau to get famine information before every possible meeting.

TRENTON, N. J. - Andrew J. Duch, Mayor, has set up its committee with Mrs. J. Kathryn Frances Cooke as chairman, and a timely proclamation has been issued by the city governing body.

DES MOINES, IA. - Mayor John MacVicar has designated a committee headed up by Albert Robertson. One of the first moves was to sponsor an all-out observance of wheat and fat conservation in public eating places.

#### Distributive Trades

Independent Grocers Alliance, Chicago, which has been very cooperative on the 7-point conservation programs, has followed through with a special bulletin to its wholesalers featuring the more plentiful foods - with emphasis on potatoes.

Public Service Corporation of New Jersey has reiterated the conservation message in its monthly journal, circulation 100,000.

Department representatives talked with officials of the Edison Electric Institute and the American Gas Association the past week about the assistance these utility companies can give in this year's food preservation campaign. Both associations will urge their member companies to cooperate in every possible way, including the promotion of maximum food preservation. Throughout the war period, gas and electric companies in many cities sponsored canning demonstrations, loaned pressure cookers, distributed gummed labels, held pressure gauge-testing clinics, provided canning information centers, helped establish canning kitchens, featured preservation in their advertising and performed other services of this type.

A national field representative of the Education Department of Standard Brands, Inc., will be touring 35 of the leading cities in the Midwest this summer and has offered her services to the Department in helping bring about more complete understanding of the voluntary food conservation effort. She will be visiting food editors and food commentators, college home economics departments, home economic women in business, other women's groups and service clubs.

A feature article by a worker's wife - "Feed the Hungry!" appears in the June issue of the Journal of Electrical Workers and Operators.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Washington 25, D. C.

May 1946

Early Potato Fact Sheet

Official production estimates of what are generally known as "early potatoes" indicate a production of 52 million bushels to the end of June. Based on current crop conditions, total potato production in the early commercial States up to September 1 may establish an all-time record as high as 70 to 75 million bushels.

Practically all this volume of potatoes will be available for market before September 1, with relatively little remaining after that date. In addition to this crop we will have a large volume of potatoes from early areas in the late group of States during July and August. Commercially these will come from Long Island, N.Y., Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, plus home-grown and market garden supplies in virtually all the other late States.

Last winter the Department recommended a goal of 52 million bushels of early potatoes but the combination of overplanting by growers and good yields now makes a record crop of 70 to 75 million bushels assured. Consumption can absorb, without extra effort, 60 to 65 million bushels. This leaves 10 to 15 million bushels that can be of untold value in filling the gap caused by the world shortage of cereals and many other food items.

Early potatoes are often harvested before reaching full maturity. Most of them probably would spoil before arrival if we attempted to ship them to famine-stricken areas abroad. But we can consume them at home as an alternative for the more readily exportable cereals. All reports indicate that the quality of this crop will be very high.

The Department's price-support program has been geared to take the low grades of potatoes off the market first in any area where support operations are started. The Department is requiring growers and shippers to agree to withhold culls and low grades from the food market when we are supporting prices.

Rail shipment alone of these potatoes from the early commercial States should total 85,000 cars between April 1 and the end of September. In addition there will be truck shipments, locally available supplies, and rail shipments during July and August from the late States.

In Southern California, the area centering around Bakersfield, will produce almost 30 million bushels of long white potatoes, making available about 35,000 carloads, most of them during May and June. Also during May, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and North Carolina will be shipping heavily. During June, the big shippers will be those in California, Arizona, North Carolina, and Virginia, with the previously mentioned States cleaning up.

To move this big crop we must ship about 27,000 cars by rail in June alone. In July, rail shipments taper off in favor of truck shipments of the large volume of what we term "home grown." However, there will be around 14,000 cars for rail shipments.

During the next several weeks, any apparent potato shortage in a local market will be merely the result of a car shortage or rainy weather which prevents harvesting. Also, the areas from the Mississippi River east will be short of ice to protect some of the cars from deterioration.

But there will be plenty of potatoes. And it will require the maximum effort of the potato production and distribution industry, carriers, and Government agencies to move this bumper crop to market.

Every effort must be made to get this crop to the consumer and to inform the consumer of the varied uses that may be made of the potato. On this last point, the U.S.D.A. pamphlet, "Potatoes In Popular Ways," prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, should be of great assistance.